

marked 21-A. Please change the A to B. The amendment has been offered by Delegate Needle. Any delegates who do not have the amendment, please indicate to the page. Amendment No. 21-B is offered by Delegate Needle. Is there a second?

*(The motion was duly seconded.)*

The amendment having been seconded, the Chair recognizes Delegate Needle to speak to the amendment. Just a second, Delegate Needle. The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 21-B to Amendment No. 21 to Committee Recommendation S&E-2 by Delegate Needle: On page 2 of the amendment in lines 10 through 14 inclusive, strike out the sentence beginning with "Unless otherwise" in line 10 down to and including "State officials." in line 14, and insert in lieu thereof the following sentence:

"Elections of all county officials shall be held on the same day in the same year as provided by public general law."

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Needle.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: Mr. Chairman, I must apologize for the delay in the deliberations of this body which was occasioned by preparation of this amendment. I am sorry if this body has gotten sidetracked. I think, however, that this amendment will bring us back on the right track.

Unfortunately, I think there is much concern about the meaning of the sentence which my amendment deletes from Amendment No. 21. I hesitate to see this body adopt the wording in that sentence which is subject to doubt.

The most desirable thing in my amendment and the thrust of it is to provide uniformity among all the counties in their elections. That is what Delegate Byrnes spoke to so eloquently, and Delegate Schloeder, Delegate Chabot and a number of other delegates here who gave me the strength to offer this amendment.

I think it is essential when taking into consideration the action of this Convention with regard to the local government article that we make the counties as visible as we are going to make them viable. It is essential that all of the counties in my opinion hold their elections on the same day in the same year. That, however, can be provided by the General Assembly. I do not think it proper that it be provided in this constitution. I think this amendment provides for the uniformity with which both the majority

recommendation and the minority report of S&E-2 desire, as Delegate Byrnes in his presentation of the minority report also indicated.

However, it leaves the final determination to the General Assembly. It will not permit the local subdivisions or the General Assembly to provide different election dates for each county which would result in a hodge-podge of county elections throughout the State. Some may have their elections in the same year as presidential elections, some when there are state elections, some in the third year, some in the fourth year, some at any other date during any of those years if Amendment No. 21 is adopted.

I think that Amendment No. 21-B to Amendment No. 21 clearly would focus attention and awareness on county elections, county candidates and county issues which is so vital when taken into consideration with this Convention's action on LG-1, I urge you to support 21-B to amendment 21.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Schloeder, do you desire to comment?

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: No, sir, I am busy back here trying to get my forces together for a reconsideration. I think that certainly the Needle amendment adds and helps clarify the Hanson amendment and I think it does help. I do not think, however, and I am sure Delegate Needle would agree, that it is as good as the original committee position, which by this time, I think, many people might at least like to have a vote on. That is, if the Baltimore City delegation would not again abstain.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. Chairman, as much as I appreciate Delegate Needle's attempt to help, I think the practical effect of the Needle amendment is one of two undesirable alternatives for this Convention. Alternative one is that the election date for Baltimore City would have to be changed to coincide with the state elections because all of the other counties have their elections at that time and all the other counties have more votes in the General Assembly than Baltimore City and it would be easier for them to do it that way than to take account of Baltimore City.

The other alternative is that Baltimore City would be sufficiently able to prevail upon the sympathies of their colleagues in the General Assembly so that all elections would be held on the same date as those in Baltimore City. These, it seems to me, are the two possible and the only two possible